savings during his/her working life which could serve as a shield against poverty during their old age. The recommendations contained in the report have a twin focus on further improving existing pension provisions and to devise a fresh pension plan for such workers who are not included in the present pension provisions but are capable of saving modest amounts and converting these savings into Old Age Income Security provision. The report has *inter-alia* recommended the constitution of a new Regulatory Agency namely "The Indian Pensions Authority (IPA)". The core function of IPA would be to oversee and supervise the functioning of the pension system, resolve problems and make incremental improvements on an ongoing basis.

(c) The issue of implementation of recommendation regarding establishment of proposed IPA would arise only after Government takes a final decision with regard to the recommendations made by the Committee.

**Encouraging NGOs to Create Facilities for Disabled**

2550. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to encourage Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to create facilities for disabled and extend concessions like tax rebate to dedicated and proving organizations in order to create a disability-friendly society;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have proposed any additional concessions for disabled in the budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Financial assistance is provided to eligible Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disability and Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances. These schemes do not envisage any tax concession. However, concessions in respect of Income Tax, Central Excise and Customs duty have been provided to individuals and institutions working in the field of disabled welfare under the relevant Acts which continue to stand extended in the current budget proposals (as per statement *see* below).

(c) Additionally, this year the excise duty on cars for physically handicapped persons falling under chapter heading No. 87.03 has been proposed to be reduced from 24% to 16%. No additional fiscal concessions relating to income tax have been proposed.

**Statement**

| Sl. No. | Details of the concession/exemption |
|---|---|
| a. | Deduction upto Rs. 40000 in respect of maintenance including medical treatment of handicapped dependent is allowed to an individual. |
| b. | An individual suffering from a permanent physical disability is also allowed a deduction of Rs. 40000 on his total income under Section 80 U of the Income Tax Department. |
| c. | Exemption to all goods manufactured by institutions for handicapped persons. |
| d. | Exemption to all goods consumed within the factory of their production in the manufacture of artificial limbs and rehabilitation aids for the handicapped. |
| e. | Concessional rate of duty of 16% on cars for physically handicapped persons. |
| f. | Exemption from payment of duty on parts of hearing aids used within the factory of its production in the manufacture of hearing aids. |
| g. | Nil duty on Braille paper falling under sub heading No. 4823.10 |
| h. | Nil duty on Artificial limbs and rehabilitation aids for handicapped, falling under sub heading No. 9021.10 and Nil duty on Orthopaedic footwear manufactured without the aid of power, falling under sub heading No. 9021.20. |
| i. | Nil duty on Braille watches falling under sub heading Nos. 9101.10 and 9102.10. |
| j. | Exemption to specified goods when imported by any institution for the blind and deaf. (exemption also extended to importation by blind person for his personal use vide S. No. 1A) |

| Sl. No. | Details of the concession/exemption |
|---|---|
| k. | Concessional rate of duty of 15% on specified items required by spinal patients and other categories of physically handicapped people. |
| l. | Exemption from payment of duty on Braille printer or Braille embosser or Braille display designed for computer systems. |
| m. | Concessional rate of duty of 15% on Closed Circuit Television System used as Low Vision Aid for visually handicapped persons. |
| n. | Exemption to audio cassettes, if recorded with material from books, newspapers, or magazines for the blind. |
| o. | Concessional rate of duty of 15% on tricycles for use by crippled and disabled persons. |
| p. | Concessional rate of duty of 15% on hearing aids appliances and spare parts of hearing aids. |
| q. | Concessional rate of duty of 5% on parts (other than primary cells and primary batteries) for the manufacture of hearing aids. |
| r. | Full exemption from payment of duty on specified goods imported by handicapped or disabled person for his personal use. |
| s. | Full exemption from payment of duty on Braille watches and Braille one day alarm clocks and parts and cases of Braille watches for the manufacture of Braille watches. |
| t. | Concessional duty of 25% on orthopaedic appliances falling under heading No. 90.21 imported by post or air, for personal use. |

**Social Security Net for Aged**

2551 SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council for Economic and Social Research has suggested that the issue of providing the social security net for the aged with involvement of the informal sector should be put on top priority by Government;